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SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY
RESOLUTION 421 (1977) CONCERNING THE
QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA

NOTE VERBALE DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DENMARK TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION 421 (1977) CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 421 (1977) concerning the question of South Africa and has the honour to refer to recent reports in the international press concerning alleged violations by Danish merchant vessels of the arms embargo against South Africa imposed by Security Council resolution 418 (1977). He wishes to give an interim report to the Committee on the investigation of the said reports.

The Permanent Representative of Denmark wishes to reiterate his Government's policy on the question of an arms embargo against South Africa and to recall his country's consistent and strong support for mandatory sanctions against South Africa imposed by the Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Accordingly, the Danish Government strongly supports Security Council resolution 418 (1977) and attaches great importance to the strict observance of the resolution.

In accordance with this policy, a Royal Decree, implementing Security Council resolution 418 (1977) in Denmark, entered into force on 10 February 1978.

Following investigations into alleged violations by Danish vessels of the Royal Decree, the Danish Government decided to extend the scope of its application. The Royal Decree was amended, accordingly, on 7 April 1982, as described in the report to the Security Council Committee circulated as Security Council document S/15062 of 10 May 1982.

By the amendment of the Royal Decree, it has been made possible to prosecute any Danish shipowner found guilty of violating the United Nations arms embargo against South Africa, even in cases where the Danish vessel involved was time-chartered to a foreign company during the voyage to South Africa.

As mentioned in the note of 6 November 1981, the case which gave rise to the amendment of the Royal Decree was closed because the investigations showed that the vessels involved were time-chartered to a foreign company and, thereby, not affected by the Royal Decree in its original wording. New information on the shipowner's knowledge of the voyages to South Africa and on the vessels' cargo has, however, been disclosed. On this basis, police investigations have been reopened but not yet brought to an end.

The Danish Government wishes to reassure the Security Council Committee that all cases involving Danish citizens will be thoroughly investigated.

A further report will be presented to the Security Council Committee when the investigations and proceedings in the cases mentioned in the note of 6 November 1981 and in this note have been concluded.

The Permanent Representative of Denmark avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 421 (1977) the assurances of his highest consideration and has the honour to request that the text of this note be circulated as a document of the Committee.